Exemption from Jute Packaging Order in Gujarat

2290. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that HDPE/PP bags are more suitable for packing of cement than Jute bags;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Gujarat Government has sent a proposal to exempt the cement, fertilizer, and other industries from the Jute Packaging Order; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There have been divergent views of cement industry and jute sector regarding comparative stability of HDPE/PP bags and jute bags for cement. While cement industry have claimed that HDPE/PP bags are most suitable because these are technically superior, cheaper than jute bags and enjoy large scale consumer preference, on the countary jute sector claims that proper variety of jute bags are eqully good for packing cement. IIT Kharagpur has been engaged by Govt. for conducting a study regarding advantages of packaging in jute bags vis-a-vis HDPE/PP bags.

(b) Gujarat Government had sent proposals in the past to the Central Govt. to exempt cement, fertilizer, and other industries from purview of the reservation in jute packaging.

(c) The Standing Advisory Committee constituted under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in packing Commodities) Act, 1987 has been analysing the entire issue in its meetings from time to time, keeping in view representations both in favour and against the reservation order and submits its recommendations to the Government. On the basis of its recommendations Govt. have notified orders exempting cement from mandatory reservation and requiring only 20% of the total production of fertilizer (Urea) to be compulsorily packed in jute packaging material.

Phasing out MEP for Coir Products

2291. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Coir Board has discussed the decision to phase out MEP for coir products with workers and other organisations working in this field; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The impact of the recommendations of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) which inter-alia includes